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SENATOR ALLARD'S FUNDING FOR NEW FORT CARSON BARRACKS APPROVED BY CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Senate on Tuesday gave final approval to the FY 2005 Supplemental Appropriations Act that includes a provision added by Senator Allard that provides \$26 million for the construction of new barracks at Fort Carson. The Senate approved the measure by a vote of 100 to zero. The House passed the bill last Thursday by a vote of 368 to 58, and President Bush is expected to sign it when it reaches his desk this week.

“This funding will be used to provide new barracks to house Army Reserve and other units when they are sent to Fort Carson to train before being deployed overseas,” said Senator Allard, who, as a member of the House-Senate conference committee that finalized the legislation last month, ensured that the Fort Carson funding remained part of the final bill.

“The most important thing we can provide these soldiers, who are going to be putting their lives on the line for their country, is state-of-the-art facilities they can use for training and preparation for deployment,” Senator Allard said.

This funding is being provided in addition to the \$161 million worth of funding for military construction projects in Colorado the Congress approved as part of the FY 2005 military construction appropriations bill, which included for Fort Carson \$12.4 million for arrival/departure air control group; \$14.1 million for a barracks complex in the hospital area; \$33 million for a digital multi-purpose training range; \$3.65 million for a multi-purpose machine gun range; \$3.2 million automated qualification training range.

“Congress is making sure that our men and women in uniform get the training and resources they need to carry out their missions as efficiently as possible,” Senator Allard said. “I am pleased to have been able to ensure that the funding for this project stayed in the final version of this bill.”

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